

# **Nevada Common Core Steering Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

*Friday, November 8, 2013*

Nevada System of Higher Education Office (NSHE), Reno, Nevada with video conference to NSHE Las Vegas, Nevada and Great Basin College, Elko, Nevada

### **Committee Members Present:**

- Superintendent Dale Erquiaga – Las Vegas
- Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba – Reno
- Ms. Punam Mathur – Las Vegas
- Ms. Suhaila Mustafa – Las Vegas
- Mr. Jim Pfrommer - Reno
- Dr. Chelli Smith – Reno
- Dr. Bill Speer – conference call
- Dr. Steve Canavero - Reno
- Mr. Jeff Zander - Elko
- Ms. Amy Henderson – Reno

### **Leadership/Staff Members Present:**

- Mr. Dave Brancamp- Reno
- Ms. Allison Combs- Reno
- Ms. Christine Hull-Reno
- Ms. Judy Osgood – Reno
- Ms. Monie Byers - Reno
- Ms. Audra Blackwell – Reno

### **Members Absent/Excused: All Members Present**

- Chancellor Daniel Klaich
- Senator Aaron Ford
- Mr. Adam Whatley

### **Audience in Attendance:**

- Seth Rau, Nevada Succeeds – Las Vegas
- Mark Newburn, State Board of Education – Las Vegas
- Stavan Corbett, State Board of Education – Las Vegas
- Heidi Wixom – Las Vegas
- Adrlan Alvarez, CCEA – Las Vegas
- Michael Rodriguez, CCSD – Las Vegas
- Theo Small – Las Vegas
- Tami Berg – WCSD CofE NV Summit Committee – Reno
- Kirsten Gleissner, NWRPDP - Reno

### **Call to Order:**

Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba called the meeting to order at 9:06am, with Roll Call taken and committee members in attendance as reflected above.

**Public Comment:**

Vice Chancellor Abba opened the floor for public comment; there was no public comment in Las Vegas, Elko, or Reno.

**Approval of September 27, 2013 Meeting Minutes:**

The Committee approved the minutes as presented. Motion to approve by Mr. Pfrommer and seconded by Dr. Smith. Motion to approve September 27, 2013 meeting minutes passed.

**Update from Subject Matter Leads for High School Seniors Transition:**

Mr. Zander and Vice Chancellor Abba gave a presentation and then discussion was held regarding the high school seniors transition. Vice Chancellor Abba suggested that this committee should urge all the school districts to get transition plans in place. Superintendent Erquiaga commented that high school transition remediation needs to be addressed. He also suggested that the report to the Governor may include recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for money and resources to assist in this transition. Dr. Speer remarked on the need for transition plans for students that are doing well also. Vice Chancellor Abba also commented that 11th grade assessment must include a diagnostic component to pave the way for success. Ms. Abba commented that the Board of Regents probably will pass a resolution at their next meeting in December to recommend the SBAC assessment as the 11<sup>th</sup> grade college readiness exam. Superintendent Zander suggested that the superintendents should have a meeting with NSHE to discuss the college and a career readiness exam. Dr. Canavero commented about having only one assessment. Superintendent Erquiaga said the Board of Education will select the assessment. Ms. Abba asked about the funding since the assessment will be administered before the next Legislative session. Superintendent Erquiaga said that it is not known just yet how the funding will occur.

**Update from Subject Matter Leads for Professional Development:**

Dr. Smith and Mr. Brancamp discussed the professional development currently in place and needs for further implementation. The Committee had a discussion regarding the professional development for common core standards (Nevada Academic Content Standards in ELA and math). Vice Chancellor Abba asked if national organizations have come out with resources. Superintendent Erquiaga discussed what resources and money will be required. He commented that the Department of Education needs a rough estimate of how much money will be needed to accomplish the suggested needs for the future. Mr. Pfrommer asked about the level of communication between school districts. Dr. Smith commented that there is sharing but that could be better. Dr. Canavero suggested a huge coordination meeting needs to take place between all stakeholders in this process.

**Instructional Support Materials:**

Mr. Brancamp gave a presentation called "Textbook and Instructional Resource Information". The group had a discussion about the instructional materials. Mr. Brancamp said that 60 days prior to a State Board of Education meeting, the Department of Education will have a standing textbook and instructional materials review committee that will submit its finding to the State Board of Education for any district-level request for materials to be added to the state list. He said that the Department of Education Standards webpage has information on the standards and Common Core (Nevada Academic Content Standards in ELA and math), information. Mr. Brancamp commented that we are working with Smarter Balanced to assist in the formation of a Digital Library for teachers around formative assessment and instruction in the classroom. Ms. Mathur commented that local control should remain local on instructional support materials selection. She suggested that the role of the state department

should be for a clearinghouse on instructional support materials. Dr. Smith commented that the state level could be an umbrella. Ms. Mustafa commented that the textbook companies can develop the textbooks and materials needed to meet our standards, and they have the money to complete this task. Mr. Zander suggested bringing in the School Board Association to have input for the process.

#### **Parental Involvement and Family Engagement:**

Ms. Henderson and Ms. Byers gave a presentation called “Communicating Nevada Academic Standards to Families”. The committee had a discussion on parental involvement and family engagement about how to answer questions and concerns on Common Core Standards (Nevada Academic Content Standards in ELA and math). Ms. Mustafa commented that parents should have access to the webpages to get questions answered on Common Core Standards (Nevada Academic Content Standards in ELA and math).

*Vice Chancellor Abba called a break at 10:30am and reconvened at 10:40am.*

#### **Communications Plan:**

Ms. Mathur and Ms. Osgood gave a presentation on the communication plan. The committee had a discussion on the plan. The presentation included statements that: Nevada needs a broad campaign that addresses all upcoming changes to standards and assessments; need to maintain a consistent message; and Nevada’s teachers are the best spokespersons on Common Core Standards. Superintendent Erquiaga agrees with the branding of the Common Core Standards under a broad label for Nevada audiences.

Vice Chancellor Abba commented that it is not only about K-12 students; it’s about getting kids ready for college and/or career. Dr. Canavero asked about the broad campaign, the brand, and what it means. Ms. Mathur replied that the campaign is about building a brighter future for the kids and aspiring to be bigger, better, smarter, more equipped, and more prosperous.

The committee discussed that students, parents, legislature, media, businesses, NSHE, and community based organizations need to understand the Common Core Standards (Nevada Academic Content Standards in ELA and math).

Vice Chancellor Abba suggested a timeline of prioritization for the communication plan. Dr. Speer suggested all of the committee members have discussions with all groups to get the message out there. Mr. Pfrommer suggested that the communications happen all at the same time. Superintendent Erquiaga suggested that the first priority is teachers, school administrators, and legislative members; second priority is parents and students; third priority businesses, CBOs and communities, and NSHE. The media can be used as messengers throughout the communication plan. Ms. Mathur suggested using a group of teachers as in-service for about 90 days to mobilize them to help spread the message. Superintendent Erquiaga said that we will not have money for a mass media campaign. He said that we need designated parents and business people to talk to people. Ms. Henderson commented on the tight timeframe for getting a report to the Governor. Ms. Mustafa said that there are teachers that are very knowledgeable in Common Core Standards and can be used to communicate. Ms. Osgood discussed the need for social media presence. She suggested a Communications Working Group be formed to include school district staff that will not be considered a public body. Ms. Osgood said that in December we need to identify funding sources such as grants and gathering a group of teachers. In January, getting the group of teachers mobilized. Ms. Mathur suggested reaching out to ad agencies in

the state to see if they would assist in getting the message out without funding. Superintendent Erquiaga said that we need to know the cost of this communications plan to report to the Governor.

Mr. Adrian Alvarez, a member of the public in Las Vegas, commented the he likes the idea of using teachers, that if a teacher says something it carries more weight. He also commented that as a parent, if it is heard from a teacher then it must be okay.

**Next Steps / Future Meetings and Agenda Items:**

Vice Chancellor Abba and Superintendent Erquiaga discussed having the next meeting the second week of December 2013. The next steps for the committee are to review the draft of the recommendations to the Governor for a report that is due on December 31, 2013.

**Public Comment:**

Vice Chancellor Abba opened the meeting up to public comment.

**Las Vegas Public Comment:**

Theo Small, of Clark County, commented on the synergy of groups. He is concerned with the cost of the textbook piece. He commented that NSEA is seeing what other groups are doing and great to see everyone is on the same page. As teachers, when we teach lessons and then see only one-third of students get it the teachers get frustrated. He commented that teachers are wading through the shallow end of the pool with Common Core Standards (Nevada Academic Content Standards in ELA and math).

Michael Rodriguez, CCSD Internal Communications Manager, commented that there are assumptions that teachers know what Common Core Standards (Nevada Academic Content Standards in ELA and math) are. He said that the teachers should know why we are doing this now. He remarked that teachers and parents need support too.

Heidi Wixom commented that the message has to get out there; that it is standards and not curriculum. High school level teachers seem to be understanding that it's a standard.

Elko – No public comment.

**Reno Public Comment:**

Tammy Berg, WCSO Family Engagement, is concerned about the anti-group distributing false information. The main person in Washoe County wants to attack the concepts that this is funded by the Gates Foundation and Federal Government. They are concerned about their kid's information being released. Superintendent Martinez couldn't answer questions in a meeting from the anti-group about common core and the release of student's information. When communications go out on "Nevada Standards" as it is called instead of Common Core Standards, the media needs to be used to the state's advantage.

Mr. Pfrommer commented that AB46 will be resolved sooner than later and the focus can then be on Common Core Standards (Nevada Academic Content Standards in ELA and math).

Superintendent Erquiaga commented that State Board of Education members Newburn and Corbett have been in Las Vegas attending the meeting. He thanked the members for being present at this meeting.

**Adjournment:**

Vice Chancellor Abba adjourned the meeting at 11:54am. The committee did not break for lunch.

MINUTES COMPLETED BY AUDRA BLACKWELL, NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION